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elected in 1846 to form a state constitution. He was an early member of the State Historical Society and always interested in its progress; he wrote for the *Collections*, "History of Lead Region of Wisconsin," published in volume vi, 271-96. There is a portrait of him in the Society's museum, presented by Mrs. Meeker.

OLDEST HOUSE IN THE MIDDLE WEST

Can you tell me which is the oldest house in the Middle West still in use? We have one here dating from 1836.

H. R. HOLAND
Ephraim

We do not quite know how one would go about it to determine the oldest house now occupied in the Middle West. To begin with, one would have strictly to delimit the area included in the investigation. If you mean to include Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, Missouri, and so forth, there are undoubtedly a great many houses older than 1836. For example, we chance to have in mind a house at Hillsboro, Illinois, that was built about 1825. The present home of the Quincy Historical Society was built as a residence in 1835. In a sense it might still be said to be occupied as such, for the caretaker of the society resides in the building. We mention these examples, not as particularly early ones, but merely as presenting two houses of older date than yours in Ephraim. Coming to Wisconsin, the residence of the Reverend Alfred Brunson, built at Prairie du Chien in 1836, is still in use, also the residence of Zachary Taylor while he was in command at Fort Crawford. We do not know the date of building this house, but it certainly antedates yours by at least a few years. No doubt other examples could be found here and there in the lead mine region.

EARLY LUMBERING AND LUMBER KINGS OF WISCONSIN

I am looking desperately for authentic information regarding the early logging operations carried on in your state. I want particularly the names of the early timber "kings" and the names of the rivers that were famous for their drives.

I will greatly appreciate any effort you may make to secure this information for me.

VICTOR SHAWNE
Genesee, Idaho